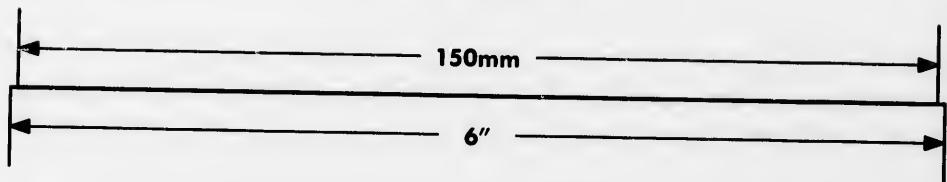
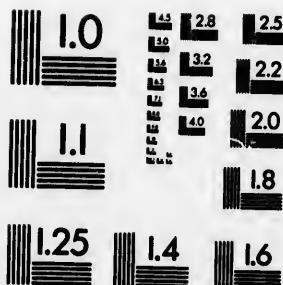
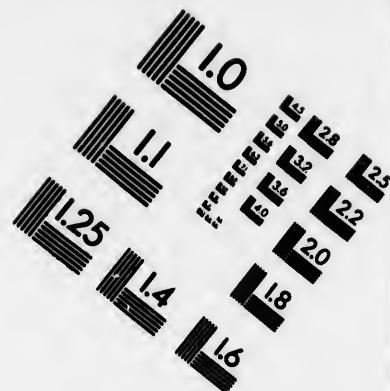
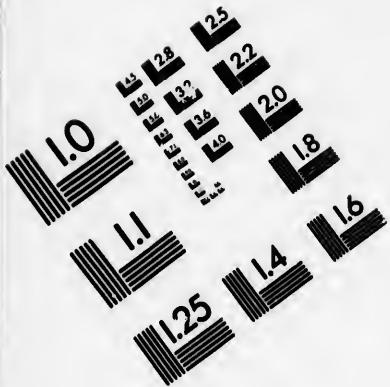
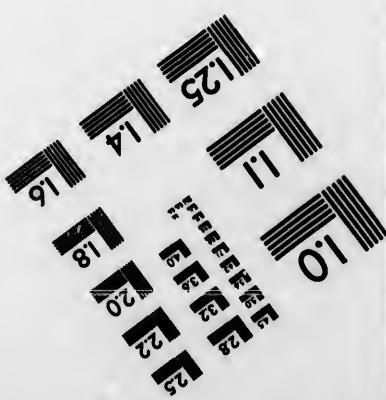


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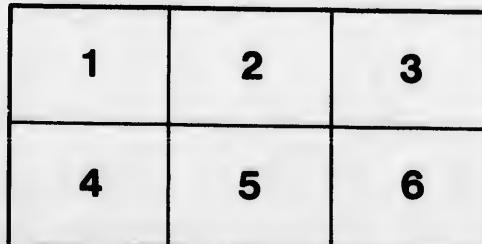
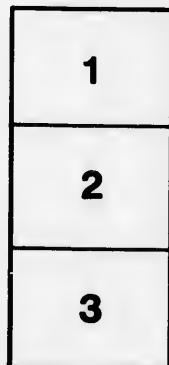
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THE WABIGOON COUNTRY, RAINY RIVER DISTRICT.

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TORONTO, MAY 1, 1897.

REPORT FROM THE PIONEER FARM SUPERINTENDENT.

On April 17th the Department received the following communication from the Farm Superintendent:

DRYDEN, P.O., April 24, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—The fall wheat came through the winter in good style, apparently none of it was winter killed. On 18th and 19th we had some cold weather which checked its growth badly. The clover is commencing to grow again, and I cannot find any of it killed or heaved out. There are now only two lots for sale in Dryden.* Three representatives of English capital from Australia and South Africa have purchased lots, two of whom, and perhaps the third, will build and make their headquarters there this year.

There are plenty of laboring men here,—a lot too many until the summer work commences. Five cars of settlers' effects arrived here yesterday and two more are expected to-day. The population of Dryden and vicinity is probably 300 or 350, including visitors. There are a lot waiting to buy town lots as soon as more are surveyed. The saw mill is running night and day and cannot furnish lumber as fast as is needed. Board lumber shiplaps can be had for about \$16.50, and B. C. cedar shingles at \$2.75. Our stores are reasonable. I have sown clover on the fall wheat. The land will not be ready for about a week.

A. E. ANNIS,
Superintendent.

* Additional town lots will be surveyed immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Since the Wabigoon pamphlet was published early in 1896, the settlements of the country has been rapid and continuous. The original townships of Wainwright and Van Horne were quickly disposed of, and during the summer of 1896 two additional townships, named Eton and Rugby, were surveyed. Eton lies to the west of Wainwright, and Rugby to the north of Eton. In Eton, where the land is particularly good, a considerable portion has been applied for. It is probable that more land will be surveyed during 1897, both for township and town purposes.

Up to March, 1897, 20,000 acres had been purchased or applied for. This represents about eighty-two applicants who will with their families become actual settlers. Enquiries regarding the country continue to be very numerous, and without doubt, there will be a large influx of settlers during the spring and summer.

Attached is the map of the town site just south of the Government Farm. A siding has been built by the C. P. R. at this point, to which the railway company requested to be allowed to give the name of "Dryden," and the town will be called by the same name. It is expected that a station will be built at an early day. The town plot is very advantageously situated on level land and adjacent to a fine water power suitable for manufacturing purposes. About 75 town lots have been sold, and eighteen or twenty buildings erected, with others to follow. There are already two stores, a post-office, an express office, a blacksmith shop and a good boarding house in the place. A small saw and shingle mill is in operation within the limits of the town site. It is likely that other industries will follow.

The price of town lots is \$10, except for corner lots and lots on Queen street, where the price is \$15. The north half of the lot adjoining the town on the east has been reserved for town purposes should it be needed.

Lots in the town may be secured under the following conditions:

1. Not more than one lot can be sold to any one individual.
2. Purchasers must erect a habitable house not less than 16x20 feet.
3. Parties shall become actual residents within six months from time of taking possession.

The terms of purchase are cash and there are no fees of any description.

Dryden not only has the bulk of the agricultural land in the Wabigoon country at the back of it, but is likely to become to some extent a mining and manufacturing centre. Water power privileges are now being sought for the purpose of running a stamp-mill for gold ores; also for flour and saw mills.

About 2,000 acres have been applied for as mineral lands in Van Horne, and within seven miles of Dryden, eighty gold claims have been taken up, chiefly in the southwestern part of Van Horne township, and on the western arm of Lake Wabigoon. Five shafts are being sunk at the present time.

For the convenience of settlers, eight and a half miles of colonization road have been built by the Government, and the settlers themselves have built an additional fifteen miles. The bridge across the river at Dryden will be completed this spring. Westward from the bridge, a road will be constructed by the Government to open up the township of Eton.

Permission to construct a wharf at Dryden has already been applied for, and it is understood that four or five tugs will ply upon the lake from various points during the coming summer. This will place the settlers around Dryden

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in direct communication by water with the Manitou mining region, the distance to be travelled being about 40 miles. The Lake Manitou and Lake Wabigoon gold fields are of exceeding promise. About 200 men are now employed there in mining operation, and during the coming season the number may be trebled. The river between Dryden and Lake Wabigoon—a distance of about a mile—is perfectly navigable.

The statement that an excellent market for dairy produce, fresh meat and vegetables would be found in the mining and lumber camps is being amply verified. During the past winter about 300,000 railway ties were taken out along the line, and there was also a lumber camp near Manitou lake. Axe men and miners were in demand, as were men and teams.

Men to work on mining properties are in demand all through the Rainy River district. Building operations and road and bridge construction at Dryden will afford work for a limited number of settlers.

Confusion exists in the minds of some regarding "Dryden" and "Wabigoon," about thirteen miles distant at the eastern end of Lake Wabigoon. It should be understood that there is no connection between the two places, as the name might lead one to suppose, and with regard to the latter the Government assumes no responsibility whatever. We are informed that town lots in Dryden are sold at reasonable prices to actual settlers only, and not to speculators at "boom" prices.

Mr. Annis reports the crops on the pioneer farm in 1896 as follows: Fall wheat, Dawson's Golden Chaff, 20 to 25 bushels per acre; Colorado spring wheat about 20, Herrison's bearded about 12; barley, a fair crop; oats, poor. The clover in fall wheat, sown 8th May, at the time of cutting wheat was in full bloom, a lot of it two to two and one-half feet high. The timothy in wheat was also headed out. The clover was cut twice this season, the first crop about two tons and the second, one ton per acre. Potatoes yielded 213 bushels per acre. Turnips and carrots will do well but cannot say as much for mangels. The first frost that injured tomatoes and other tender vegetables occurred on the 14th of September.

Sheep will do well owing to the rolling character of the land and rich natural pasture. One man had six lambs from very common ewes, two of which on October 1st weighed 131 lb. each. They were weaned April 15th.

The weather this winter was not so favorable as last, the season closing up earlier and the snow fall being deeper than usual. Still, a great deal of pleasant weather was enjoyed. In 1895 the plow stopped running on November 5th and in 1896 on October 17th.

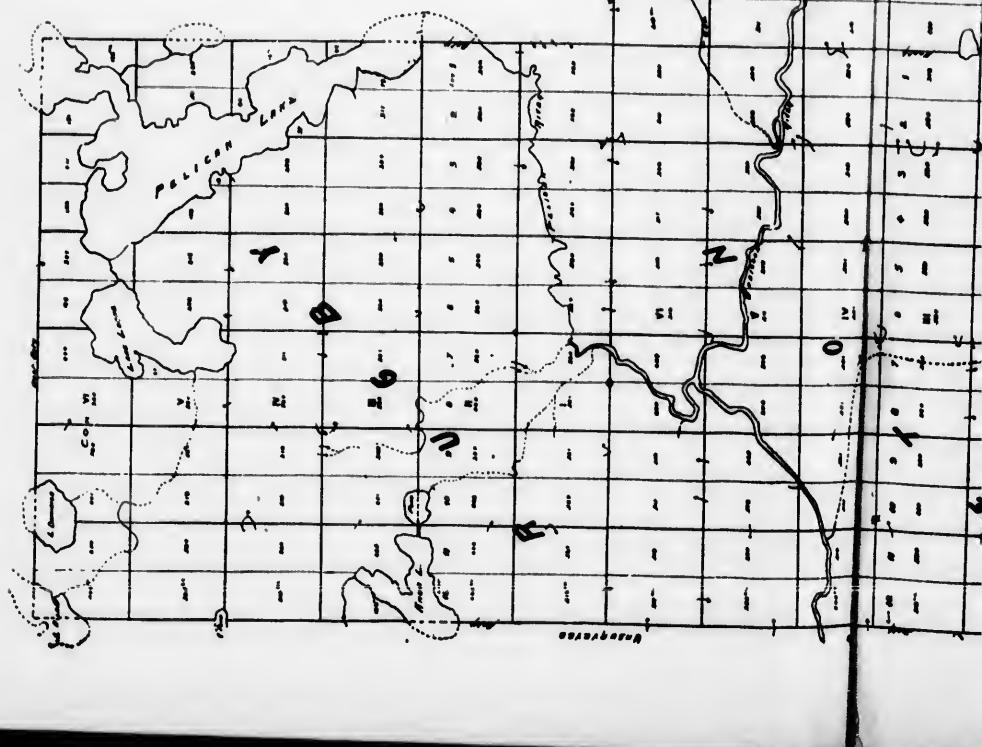
The regulations of the Crown Lands Department have been modified as to the amount of land sold to each settler. Each applicant is allowed to purchase 160 acres or half a lot, instead of 320 as formerly, but if the head of a family he is allowed to increase his purchase to 240 acres. The price is still 50c. per acre.

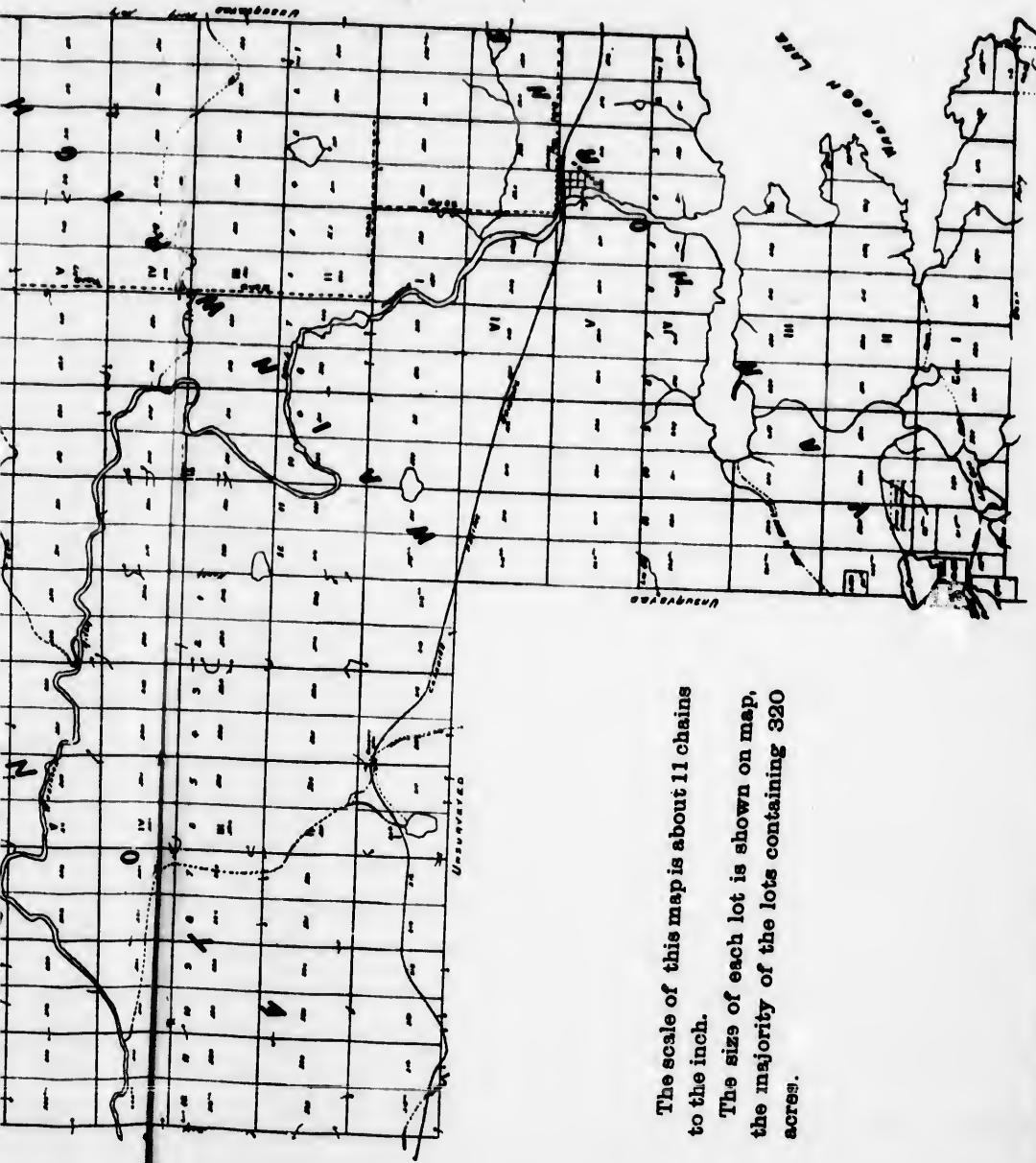
The Superintendent of the Pioneer Farm, Mr. A. E. Annis, is also Crown Lands Agent and may be addressed at Dryden P. O.

The special C. P. R. one way rate to Dryden is \$17 all rail or \$15 by rail and boat. It is given only to bona fide settlers on the individual merits of each case. Those desiring to avail themselves of it should apply to the Assistant General Passenger Agent, C. P. R., Toronto, or to L. O. Armstrong, C. P. R. Colonization Agent, Montreal, Que.

THE WABIGOON COUNTRY.

Plan showing the Four Surveyed Townships
to the northwest of Lake Wabigoon.
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT





The scale of this map is about 11 chains
to the inch.

The size of each lot is shown on map,
the majority of the lots containing 320
acres.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS TO THE
NORTHWEST OF LAKE WABIGOON, RAINY
RIVER DISTRICT.**

TOWNSHIP OF VAN HORNE.

The township is in general rolling, with very few hills of over 100 feet high; frequent fires have overrun so that all the timber of value has been destroyed, except two small patches of spruce and tamarac in the southwest quarter, leaving parts of the township completely bare, but the larger portion is covered by a thick growth of small poplar, jack pine and birch.

The soil consists of a fine white or grey clay, with areas of sandy loam. This clay and loam is mostly in the northern and central parts and occupy about one-third of the township. They will, I think, make valuable farms, easy to make ready for the plow, as the ground is almost completely clear of timber. The balance of the township consists chiefly of rolling hills of rock with swamps intervening.

Sept. 11, 1895.

A. H. MACDOUGALL,
Ontario Land Surveyor.

TOWNSHIP OF RUGBY.

The S. and S.E. portion of the township is in general gently rolling with a few hills of rock; in the N. and N.W. it is in the greater part very rough, consisting chiefly of high hills of rock, with muskeg and small patches of clay. The soil consists of a fine white clay covering most of the S.E. portion, this is almost clear of timber and in most places can be easily made ready for the plow.

The township is well watered; there are six lakes, chiefly in the northern part; the largest, Pelican lake, occupies about 4 miles long in the N.E. corner, and extends a long way out of the township; the outlet of this lake is Pelican river, a sluggish stream about one chain wide by three feet deep with clay banks by which the water is much discolored; this river enters the township on the E. boundary of lot 1, concession II., and crosses lots 1 to 7 in concession I., finally emptying into Wabigoon river in the township of Eton.

There is no timber of any value in the township, the south part has been completely burnt and the rest is covered by small dead second growth Jack pine, poplar, spruce and in general from 1 to 5 inches thick, very much decayed, so that a large number are blown down by every storm; the only exception to this is in a few swamps and muskegs, covered by green second growth and scrub.

Game was rather plentiful, a number of moose was seen and large numbers of partridges and pin tailed grouse.

Nov. 20, 1896.

A. H. MACDOUGALL,
Ontario Land Surveyor.

TOWNSHIP OF ETON.

With the exception of a few rocky elevations in concessions V. and VI., nearly the whole surface is undulating and rolling, thus affording good facilities for drainage.

The soil is mainly composed of clay and clay loam of excellent quality, and there is scarcely a lot which does not contain enough good land to make a fair sized farm. Fully 75 per cent. of the total area is well adapted for farm purposes.

The township is well watered by the Wabigoon, Pelican, Gull and Beaver rivers with their numerous tributaries. The Wabigoon, a fine stream about two chains in width, with an average depth of from 6 to 8 feet, and a current of about 2 miles an hour, enters the township on lot 1, in concession V., and flowing in a northwesterly and southwesterly direction, crosses the west boundary on lot 12 in concession IV. It contains good water, slightly impregnated with the clay of which its banks are formed, and being free from rapids, affords uninterrupted navigation down to its confluence with Eagle river. Pelican river is about two-thirds of the volume of the Wabigoon, and is similar to the latter in many of its features, uniting with it on lot 7 in concession VI. Gull and Beaver rivers traverse small portions of the township, and have an average breadth of 50 links, with a depth of 5 or 6 feet. Both are sluggish streams. The only lake in the township is situated on lot 5 in concession I., and covers an area of 45 acres.

With the exception of a few clumps, scattered here and there, no timber of any commercial value remains, but in many places sufficient second growth tamarac, spruce, Jack pine and poplar, for the purposes of the settler can be obtained. Fire having overrun the district in 1894, the second growth timber has nearly all been killed, and the greater part of concessions V. and VI., lying north of Wabigoon river, has been almost entirely denuded, thereby rendering the clearing of that part a comparatively easy task.

Sept. 19, 1896.

T. B. SPEIGHT,
Ontario Land Surveyor.

TOWNSHIP OF WAINWRIGHT.

The surface throughout is gently rolling with occasional knolls and small hills. The soil is mainly composed of clay and clay loam of excellent quality.

Fully seventy-five per cent. of the whole township is well adapted for agricultural purposes and the greater part being covered only by open brûlé the necessary clearing would be easily accomplished.

Patches of open prairie of considerable extent also occur in many places, thus further reducing the usual labors of the future pioneers in preparing farms for cultivation.

Oct. 1, 1895.

T. B. SPEIGHT,
Ontario Land Surveyor.

